

Front Page	Edit Page	Other Page
AKRON, OHIO BEACON JOURNAL		
E - 169,645 S - 191,102		
APR 7 1966		

Is CIA Paying \$2 Million Free Cuba Radio Tab?

By BOB SHERRILL

From Our Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — It has all the makings of a good cloak and dagger chapter.

Here we have a beautiful director surrounded by a loyal band of Cuban exiles ... a "front" of highly respectable men and women, some of them

fiery arch-conservatives ... and behind it all, what appears to be CIA money.

This is a rough description of the Cuban Freedom Committee, sponsors of the Free Cuba Radio, which beams 250 hours monthly of anti-Castro and pro-subversion news and propaganda over radio sta-

tions in Miami (WGBS), Key West (WKWF), and New Orleans (WWL).

THE ACCENT is on propaganda, with innuendoes about Raul Castro's perversities, suggestions as to ways to upset the economy and social life in Cuba, and rousing messages to stand firm.

Next to the U. S. Government-operated voice of America, Free Cuba Radio is probably the most influential anti-Castro propaganda venture going on today's airwaves. And in some ways it is probably more influential than the voice because it is more belligerent.

There are some moder-

ates on the Free Cuba Radio advisory board, and some quiet conservatives like Oleta Culp Hobby, former cabinet member under President Eisenhower. But the more vocal members of the board are former Congressman Donald C. Bruce, Peter O'Donnell, George S. Schuyler, and the board's chairman, John B. McClatchy.

Bruce has lent a hand to many right-wing organizations, including the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade, Human Events, and the Manion Forum. As a congressman, he was a firebrand, advocating a three-point policy toward Cuba: Total naval blockade, open and public support of a Cuban Army of Liberation, and recognition of a government-in-exile.

McClatchy of Upper Darby, Penn., has been active in the right-wing Human Events Political Action Conference, and is a life member of Billy James Hargis's Christian Anti-Communism crusade.

Peter O'Donnell of Dallas is best known for his role as

chairman of the National Draft Goldwater Committee, but he is also very active in right-wing ventures.

Schuyler is a Negro columnist who frequently speaks to John Birch Society gatherings on the topic: Why the South is a great place for Negroes. He writes articles for the John Birch Magazine, American Opinion, and he is on the advisory board of the Committee On Pan American Policy, which last year called Castro "the State Department's gift to Cuba."

AS FOR the source of Free Cuba Radio's finances, Mrs. Mariada S. Arensberg, its beautiful blond director, prefers not to say more than "we get it from foundations."

Could she be speaking of the same mysterious foundations which were tied to the CIA by Rep. Wright Patman's Banking Committee?

Followers of this mystery serial will recall that two years ago Patman discovered that the J. M. Kaplan fund, a tax-exempt foundation, was being used by the CIA as a conduit of money for some of its super-secret activities.

Patman, who prides himself for his firm police work in the Foundation field, didn't like this kind of CIA-Kaplan "Gimmick or diversionary tactic," as he called it, and he started in to expose the whole network.

But at the last minute pleas from the CIA and from the

Administration caused him to get the rest of his information in executive committee sessions.

THE THING the CIA has to gain from Free Cuba Radio is an inflammatory voice driving deep into the consciousness of Cubans, to help in case the CIA concocts any more rebellions or invasions.

The Voice of America is rather bland. Not so, Free Cuba Radio or those who prepare the programs. Dr. Herminio Portell-Vila, a former Cuban history teacher who writes script for the programs, says, "Yes, I believe in killing Castro. I believe in blowing up the Cuban refineries. Without oil Cuba cannot survive. These actions I believe in."

Mrs. Arensberg says her organization "does not think in terms of 10 years from now. We think in terms of six months at the most. Within that time we expect Cuba to be free. Anything could happen at any moment. Castro could be killed, for example. Anything could happen. We have the feeling something is about to happen."

MEANWHILE, Radio Free Cuba helps to create an atmosphere in which "anything" is more likely to happen.

For this propaganda, and for accompanying news and music, the CIA — or some body who won't tell — has laid out nearly \$2 million in the last five years.